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Print Media and Electronic Media Assignment:

For the last two years I have been doing a weekly assignment in which students in my AP United States Government and Politics class have to evaluate a news print article and an electronic media form on current weekly politics. The electronic media could be a weekly Sunday news show such as Fox News Sunday or Meet the Press. It could also have included a podcast of a political program. The students would have to turn in a written form. A description of the assignment and each of these forms is listed below .

**Assignment Description:**

Each Monday (or the first day of the week), students are required to turn in one current newspaper article related to an assigned topic covered in class. You are to attach the article to a written summary which includes: (Each of these should be labeled and underlined)

-Write the name and date of the publication.

-Write the topic you believe the article represents.

-Write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the article. What topic is dealt with? What does the article say about the topic?

-What connections can you make to US politics? What previous material that you learned does this connect to?

-What is your opinion and/or recommended plan of action regarding this issue?

Recommended papers include: New York Times, Chicago Sun-Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, USA Today, Christian Science Monitor. Magazines are also acceptable.

All electronic/Internet articles must come from one of the following sources OR be pre-approved. **New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, Newsweek, Time, US News and World Report.**

Most papers require you to register online to access articles. This is free of charge.

Each week you may also be required to use one form of electronic media to lean about current events. This can take the form of a TV news show or podcast. You will need to do the following:

-Watch or listen to the program

-Write a brief summary of what you learned from the program

-What connections can you make to material covered in the class?

-What do you agree and/or disagree with in the program?

Suggested TV programs include any of the following Sunday morning shows:

CBS: Face the Nation

NBC: Meet the Press

ABC: This Week

CSPAN Weekend Programs:

Presidential Weekly Radio Address

America and the Courts

Road to the White House 2008

Podcasts:

Search through Itunes using politics as keyword. There are several from noted politicans, but also from CSPAN and other news outlets.

Blogs:

You should also consider registering for a political blog. There are several that discuss current events, such as the presidential election, and this is a chance for you to discuss politics and use the information you have learned in this course with others.

Online Discussion Board:

There will be a discussion board through the course website which you will be required to post on periodically. This is done to stimulate discussion on current events and topics we will discuss in class. Your postings should be relevant and appropriate. You are also encouraged to post your own questions for the class to discuss.

**Electronic Media Form**

AP American Government and Politics

Electronic Media Assignment

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Network:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Topic(s) Discussed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Summary of what you learned from the program:**

**Connections to Class:**

**Print Media Assignment**

AP American Government and Politics

Print Media Assignment

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Publication:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Topic of Article**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary (who, what, where, when and why**):

**Connections to Government**:

**Opinion/Plan of Action**:

Note: Be sure to attach the actual article to your summary. If you use the internet, make sure to use the printable version.

I would like to take this assignment to a class blog. I would like my students to take these forms and post their responses on the class blog instead of turning these forms in. This blog will allow them to have a year long discussion online of what they are learning about the political process. Students can teach each other about how the content we are learning in class connects to current day events. For example who interesting would it be for the class to be blogging on the events of this oil spill in the gulf. The connections would be invaluable.

A simple rubric will be used to evaluate the student posts. The example of the rubric that could be used comes from <http://www.evenfromhere.org/?p=1282> The rubric is listed below

Blogging Rubric

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1  Beginner | 2  Capable | 3  Accomplished | 4  Expert |
| Quality of Writing  X 2 | - post has no style or voice  - gives no new information on the topic  - poorly organized | - post has little style or voice  - gives some new information on the topic  - poorly organized | - written in a somewhat interesting style and voice  - some new information on the topic or reflective  - well organized | - written in an interesting style and voice  - very informative or deeply reflective  - well organized |
| Presentation  X 1 | - many words misspelled  - many grammar errors  - formatting makes post difficult to follow or read | - several spelling errors  - several grammar errors  - formatting makes it difficult to follow or read | - few spelling errors  - few grammar errors  - some formatting to help make the post easier to read | - all words spelled correctly  - no grammar errors  - formatting makes the post more interesting and easier to read |
| Multimedia  X 2 | - no multimedia | - one piece of multimedia | - several pieces of multimedia | - multiple pieces of multimedia  - multimedia adds new information or perspective to post |
| Community  X 1 | - no links  - post is not tagged or categorized | - one or more links  - only "easy" links  - post may be categorized or tagged | - several links included that add to the reader's understanding  - post may be categorized or tagged | - several links to places that add to readers understanding  - post is fully categorized and tagged |